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# THE FACTS

Information About  
Environmental Cleanup  
at McClellan AFB.

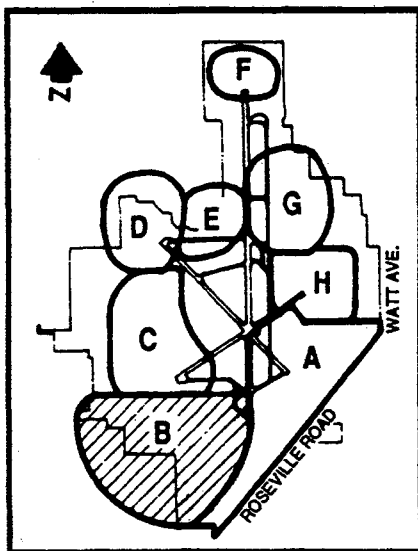
Produced by McClellan AFB Environmental Management

Number 6

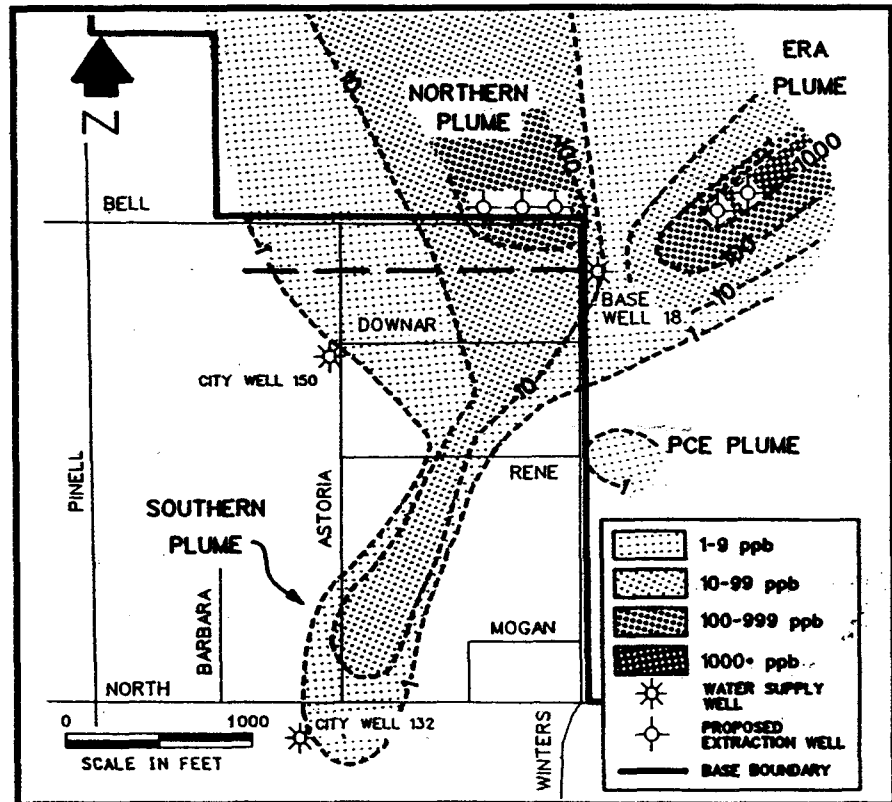
## OPERABLE UNIT B Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis

The Air Force is undertaking several removal actions to control contaminated groundwater in the southwest portion of the Base, the area known as Operable Unit B (OU B).

Removal actions are short term actions intended to minimize potential health risks due to contamination, for example, from contaminated drinking water. Longer term, more thorough cleanup actions are addressed in the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) portion of cleanup.



**Eight Operable Units have been identified at McClellan AFB. OU B is in the southwest part of the Base.**



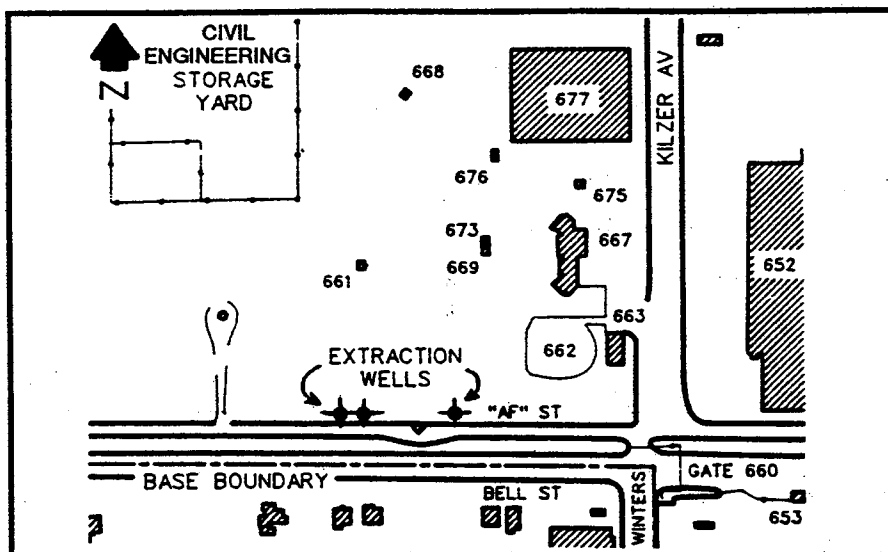
**The EE/CA identified four areas of concern in OU B. Removal actions are designed to control the flow of most of the contaminated groundwater in the southwest part of the Base, and prevent it from affecting water supply wells.**

The removal actions in OU B are designed to control the migration of contaminated groundwater toward two water supply wells, City Well 132 and Base Well 18. The removal actions are evaluated in a study called the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis, or EE/CA. The Air Force, California Department of

Health Services (DHS), and U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reviewed several alternative before formulating the proposed actions.

### Areas of Concern

The EE/CA identified four  
*See Page 2*



**Three extraction wells near the southwest corner of the Base will prevent contaminants above 100 ppb from migrating off base.**

areas of concern, which are shown on the map on Page 1. The shaded areas represent the concentrations of volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, in the groundwater. These shaded areas are called plumes.

The plumes now pose no public health risks. City Well 132 is used only for emergencies. Any contaminants now brought to the surface by Base Well 18 are filtered out with activated carbon before the groundwater is distributed.

However, a baseline health risk assessment showed that risks would develop in the future under certain conditions: if no action were taken and the contaminants were allowed to reach City Well 132, and if it were used for drinking water supplies; or if higher concentrations of contaminants were allowed to reach Base Well 18.

#### Removal Actions Underway

The Base began the first removal action in OUB in Octo-

ber 1990. This action is called an Expedited Response Action, or ERA, and will control the migration of the plume with the highest concentrations of contaminants. The ERA was described more fully in Fact Sheet No. 4.

#### Proposed Removal Actions

The EE/CA report also proposes actions for the other three areas of concern. These actions range from adding an extraction system, to continuing to pump Base Well 18, to continuing to monitor the plumes.

For the northern plume, removal actions include installing three extraction wells near the base boundary to remove contaminants in concentrations over 100 ppb (see Figure at left).

As part of the proposed removal action, Base Well 18 will continue to pump groundwater at its current rate, about one million gallons per day. At that rate, it pulls in most of the contaminated groundwater, preventing the further spread of the plumes.

A portion of the southern plume will not be drawn back by Base Well 18. This portion has relatively low concentrations of VOCs. Further actions for this portion of the plume will be investigated in the long-term OUB Remedial Investigation, scheduled to begin in Spring of 1991.

#### Public Involvement

You have many ways to participate in the cleanup. The EE/CA report is available in the Sacramento Central, Rio Linda, and McClellan AFB libraries. You can send your comments to Linda Trogon at McClellan AFB. If you have any questions, call Linda Trogon or your public representatives at the numbers listed below.

For More Information Contact	
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